

Message Text

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TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190192

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: US-JAPANESE BILATERAL COOPERATION ON ENERGY

REF: EC BRUSSELS 5202

1. REGARDING SPAAK'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON A WIRE
SERVICE REPORT REGARDING "ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT
US-JAPAN COMMITTEE ON PROBLEMS OF ENERGY RESOURCES,"

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YOU MAY TELL HIM THE FOLLOWING:

(A) THE REPORT IN QUESTION APPEARS TO CONFUSE SEVERAL ON-GOING AND CONTEMPLATED PROJECTS -- NONE OF WHICH HOWEVER WOULD RESULT IN THE FORMATION OF A NEW JOINT COMMITTEE. US AND JAPAN HAVE, OF COURSE, BEEN INCREASING THEIR BILATERAL CONTACTS ON ENERGY MATTERS, AS THEY HAVE WITH OTHER CONCERNED COUNTRIES. AT THE NINTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE JOINT US-JAPAN COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN TOKYO JULY 16-17, IT WAS AGREED THAT TWO CHANGES IN CONSULTATION PROCEDURES WOULD BE CONSIDERED. FIRST THE US AND JAPAN WOULD HOLD SMALL MEETINGS OF EXPERTS TO DISCUSS THE ENERGY SITUATION, AND SECONDLY, THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN WOULD STRIVE TO DEVELOP NEW ENERGY RESOURCES THROUGH A JOINT R & D PROGRAM.

(B) ON THE FIRST ITEM, MINISTER NAKASONE PROPOSED,

AND OUR DELEGATION AGREED, THAT THE CONTEMPLATED MEETINGS WOULD BE SMALL AND LOW-KEY AND MUST NOT BE CONSTRUED AS THE JOINING OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO CONFRONT THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES OR TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR ENERGY NEEDS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OTHER CONSUMING COUNTRIES. NAKASONE SUGGESTED THAT THE FORMAT SHOULD CALL FOR 3-5 EXPERTS ON EACH SIDE TO MEET FOR A STRICTLY INFORMAL EXCHANGE.

(C) SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL CONCERN IN THESE DISCUSSIONS MIGHT BE THE CONTEMPLATED JOINT OIL AND GAS VENTURES IN THE SOVIET UNION, OUR DIFFERENCES REGARDING OECD COUNTRY OIL SHARING ARRANGEMENTS IN CRITICAL SHORTAGE SITUATIONS, AND BOTH GOVERNMENTS' POLICIES, ACTIVITIES, AND THINKING RE THE MAJOR MIDDLE EAST/AFRICAN OIL PRODUCING AREA.

(D) REGARDING THE SECOND NEW AREA OF COOPERATION, WE HAVE UNDER DISCUSSION WITH THE GOJ AN UMBRELLA
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AGREEMENT ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ENERGY SUPPLIES, WHICH, IF CONCLUDED, WOULD RESULT IN AN EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION AS WELL AS POSSIBLE JOINT OR SHARED RESEARCH PROJECTS IN SUCH FIELDS AS SOLAR AND GEOTHERMAL ENERGY, MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMIC CONVERSION SYSTEMS AND ENERGY CONSERVATION.

(E) WE AND JAPAN ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT OECD HIGH LEVEL GROUP SHOULD BE FOCUS OF MULTILATERAL CONSUMER COUNTRY ACTIVITY. OUR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE VIEWED IN CONTEXT OF AGREEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER TANAKA AND THE PRESIDENT, AS REPORTED IN THE COMMUNIQUE," TO CONTINUE TO COORDINATE EFFORTS TO ENSURE A STABLE SUPPLY OF ENERGY RESOURCES TO MEET THE RAPIDLY GROWING REQUIREMENTS OF THEIR PEOPLES. IN THIS CONNECTION, THEY EXPRESSED THEIR COMMON INTENTION TO PURSUE JUST AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE OIL PRODUCING STATES; TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE OECD, AN ARRANGEMENT ON SHARING OIL IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY; AND GREATLY TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF COOPERATION FOR EXPLORING AND EXPLOITING ENERGY RESOURCES AND FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ENERGY SOURCES."

BECAUSE OF PECULIAR JAPANESE CONCERNS OVER THEIR VULNERABILITY AND ISOLATION, WE SEE BENEFIT TO ENERGY CONSUMERS AT LARGE FROM CLOSER JAPANESE-US COOPERATION.

2. AS OUR PAST ACTIONS SHOW, WE AGREE THAT CLOSE CONSULTATION BETWEEN USG AND EC COMMISSION IS BENEFICIAL. ENERGY HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE A MAJOR AGENDA ITEM FOR EACH OF OUR SEMI-ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE COMMISSION. AS THE OCCASION WARRANTS, THESE DISCUSSIONS CAN BE SUPPLEMENTED, AS FOR EXAMPLE BY TALKS SUCH AS THOSE RECENTLY HELD BY SIMONET IN WASHINGTON AND CASEY IN BRUSSELS. WHILE WE CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVE FOUND IT MOST USEFUL TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH THE EC COMMISSION, AS WELL AS WITH JAPAN, WE BELIEVE THE MULTILATERAL FOCAL POINT FOR ACTION BY CONSUMING COUNTRIES SHOULD REMAIN IN THE OECD FRAMEWORK. THE ISSUES AND MODES OF COOPERATION WHICH CAN FRUITFULLY BE EXPLORED IN THE US-EC FRAMEWORK DO NOT PARALLEL IN ALL RESPECTS THE ISSUES WHICH MIGHT BE COVERED IN THE CONTEXT OF JAPANESE-US COOPERATION. THUS THE FORUMS FOR THESE TWO SETS OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO MEET THE PECULIAR NEEDS OF EACH RELATIONSHIP. OUR PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EC ON ENERGY APPEAR TO US APPROPRIATE AND SATISFACTORY, BUT WE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE HAPPY TO CONSIDER ANY SUGGESTIONS THE COMMISSION MIGHT WISH TO ADVANCE FOR IMPROVING THEM.

3. WITH RESPECT TO ENERGY R & D, THE US AND EURATOM HAVE, OF COURSE, A LONG HISTORY OF COOPERATION IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD. WHEN COMMISSIONER DAHRENDORF VISITED WASHINGTON IN JUNE HE EMPHASIZED ENERGY AS THE MOST FRUITFUL AREA FOR R & D COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND THE EC. USG CURRENTLY STUDYING POSSIBILITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ENERGY R & D AND WOULD WELCOME ANY PROPOSALS EC MAY HAVE IN THIS AREA. RUSH

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